






METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ESTABLISHING TELECOMMUNICATIONS CALL PATH IN BROADBAND COMMUNICATION NETWORK

Patent number: HU71152
Publication date: 1995-11-28
Inventor: HILLER THOMAS LLOYD (US); PHELAN JAMES JOSEPH (US); ZOLA MEYER JOSEPH (US)
Applicant: AT & T CORP (US)
Classification:
- international: **H04L12/64; H04Q11/04; H04L12/56; H04L12/64; H04Q11/04; H04L12/56; (IPC1-7): H04L12/64; H04L12/56; H04Q11/04**
- european: **H04L12/64B; H04Q11/04S2**
Application number: HU19950001305 19930318
Priority number(s): US19920972787 19921106; US19920972788 19921106; US19920972789 19921106; US19920972786 19921106

Also published as:

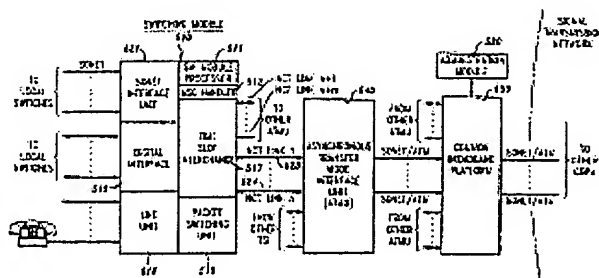
 WO9411975 (A1)
 EP0669067 (A1)
 JP2004274790 (A)
 FI952174 (A)
 BR9307398 (A)

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Abstract not available for HU71152
Abstract of corresponding document: **WO9411975**

In accordance with the principles of this invention, Pulse Code Modulation (PCM) signal streams are converted into Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) cells for switching and transmission across a telecommunications network. Each cell carries one PCM sample of up to 48 different voice connections, the voice connections selected from the PCM data streams because they have a common destination. The cells are transmitted over ATM virtual circuits, each circuit transmitting one cell every 125 μ s. Advantageously, ATM transmission systems interface with PCM systems without adding appreciable delay and without requiring additional buffering. Advantageously, new voice paths can be established most of the time by using available slots in the cells of existing virtual paths. This invention can also be used for implementing a large switching system or a cluster of highly interconnected smaller systems.



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